the mortal remains of Bahadur Shah Zafar should be transferred from Yangon to Delhi.

(b) It was decided that the proposal need not be pursued.

(c) and (d) Questions do not arise.

Declaration of Telugu as Classical language

2292. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to declare Telugu as a Classical language;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the criteria set to declare such languages as classical;

(e) whether there is any modification of rules to declare more languages as classical; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh and several other organizations have made representations to declare Telugu as a classical language. The requests were forwarded to Sahitya Akademi for consideration of the Committee of Linguistic Experts constituted for the purpose.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Ministry of Home affairs created a new category of languages as 'Classical Languages' *vide* their notification dated 12th October, 2004 read with the Corrigendum Notification dated 29th October, 2004 and amended by Notification dated 25th November 2005. Accordingly, the following criteria was laid down to determine the eligibility of languages to be considered as 'Classical Languages':—

(i) High antiquity of its early texts/recorded history over a period of 1500-2000 years.

(ii) A body of ancient literature/texts, which is considered a valuable heritage by generations of speakers.

(iii) The literary tradition be original and not borrowed from another speech community.

(iv) The classical language and literature being distinct from modern, there may also be a discontinuity between the classical language and its later forms or its offshoots.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

National Galllery of Modern Art, Bangalore

2293. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the National Gallery of Modern Art in Bangalore is almost ready;

(b) what is the total amount spent by the Central Government on the gallery; and

(c) by when the gallery will be open to public?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The civil works of National Gallery of Modern Art, Bangalore is almost complete. However, certain important arrangements like specialized lighting, fixtures for the display of the works, storages, furniture and other internal arrangements are yet to be completed.

(b) The Central Government has released Rs. 777.71 lakhs through CPWD for the renovation and construction works in National Gallery of Modern Art, Bangalore.

(c) The Museum will be opened as soon as the remaining works are completed.

Construction of Kendra Sahithi Academy Golden Jubilee Complex

2294. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Kerala has requested for Central assistance for the construction of the 'Kendra Sahiti Academy Golden Jubilee Complex';